

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Re Application of: Kurnik and Williams

SERIAL No.: 10/034,278

FILED: December 28, 2001

**FOR: Injection and Separation System and Method
Employing Transient Isotachophoretic Stacking**

EXAMINER: J. T. Barton

ART UNIT: 1753

CONF. NO.: 9825

Mail Stop RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Interview Summary

The applicants thank the Examiner for granting a telephonic interview regarding the above-referenced application on February 2nd, 2006. The participants were Examiner Jeffrey T. Barton (USPTO) and LeeAnn Gorthey (applicants' representative). This written summary is submitted in accordance with MPEP §713.04.

In accordance with MPEP §713.04, applicants provide the following information:

(A) A copy of Verheggen *et al.*, *Journal of Chromatography*, **452**, 612-622 (1988) had been forwarded to the Examiner via facsimile on January 25, 2006.

(B) Claims discussed: The discussion was generally directed to all of the pending claims, but in particular to independent claim 1.

(C) Prior art discussed: The primary cited reference, Manz *et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 6,280,589, was discussed, as well as cited reference Krivankova *et al.* (*J. Chromatography B* **689**:13-34, 1997) and the Verheggen *et al.* reference noted in (A).

(D) Amendments discussed: none.

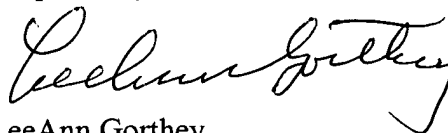
(E-F) Substantive issues discussed: Applicant's agent, LeeAnn Gorthey, pointed out that the two-electrode injection scheme described in Manz *et al.* had fallen out of favor due to the leakage problem described in that same reference. She contended that there was no expectation that the combination with ITP stacking would address this problem, while maintaining peak

intensity, thus providing an advantage over the four-injection method described by Manz as preferred.

Dr. Gorthey also briefly noted that the passage pointed out by the Examiner at column 1, lines 48-51 of Manz did not refer to ITP stacking, which is particularly apparent from the Verheggen *et al.* article to which Manz *et al.* refers.

(G) Agreement on allowance was not reached, but the Examiner agreed to consider these issues further upon submission of an RCE by the next due date for response.

Respectfully submitted,



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